I

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1971

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1971)

E. ARNOLD	Preston-on-Wye
Sir D.T.L. BAILEY, Bart.	Brinsop and Wormesley
G.B. BRAY	Dilwyn
C. COLBATCH CLARK	Canon Pyon
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Mrs. L.A. DAVENPORT	Yazor
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Mrs. M.E.H. EVANS	Eardisland and Stretford
Major J.B. FOWLER	Canon Pyon
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R.A. MARSHALL	Kinnersley and Sarnesfield
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H.P. MOTTERAM	Dilwyn
C.J. NORMAN (Chairman of the Rating Committee)	Weobley
Rev. P. NOURSE	Eardisland and Stretford
Mrs. P.D. PARKER	Birley
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S. SIMONS	Weobley
Major W.R.D. VERDIN, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee)	King's Pyon
Mrs. M. WATT	Letton

Clerk of the Council .. I.W. BROWN

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

LEONARD MORLEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.A.R.D.S.,
Cert. Meat and other Foods,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor,
Housing Officer,

Council Offices, Whitehill House,

WEOBLEY.

(Telephone: Weobley 395/6)

Technical Assistant: G. MITCHELL

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector & Surveyor: Miss Z.M. OAKENFULL

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To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1971, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

There is little significance in the Statistical Section to note except that once more the district had an excess of births over deaths of 16. The general health of the community remained good apart from an epidemic of measles in the Spring.

I am grateful to Mr. Morley for his interesting report, and for his help during the year on investigations of water and milk problems.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

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STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	49,727
Estimated mid-year home population	5,640
Average number of persons per acre	0.11
Number of inhabited houses	1,951
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ..	.04
Average number of persons per house	2.9
Rateable value	£121,806
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,100

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	38	37	75
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	40	39	79

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.17	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D. (Crude)	14.0	11.7	15.2	18.6	17.9
" " (Adjusted)	16.4	13.7	17.8	21.8	20.9
England and Wales	16.0	16.0	16.3	16.9	17.2

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

	1971	1970
Weobley R.D.	5.0	6.0
England & Wales	8.0	8.0

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D.	13.0	Nil	11.5	Nil	9.7
England and Wales	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.3	14.8

INFANT DEATH RATES

Early Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Weobley R.D.	..	25.0
England and Wales	..	10.0

Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Weobley R.D.	..	25.0
England and Wales	..	12.0

Perinatal Mortality

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Weobley R.D.	..	38.0
England and Wales	..	22.0

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D.	(Total	25.0	Nil	Nil	37.7	9.8
	(Legitimate	27.0	Nil	Nil	30.9	11.1
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	111.0	Nil
England and Wales	(Total	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.3	18.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Weobley R.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. Figure not yet available

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	42	21	63

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 0.93	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D. (Crude)	11.2	8.8	12.5	14.0	9.7
" " (Adjusted)	10.4	8.2	11.6	13.6	9.2
England and Wales	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.2

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	5	5	10

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D.	1.77	1.77	3.17	2.46	2.29
England and Wales	2.39	2.36	2.35	2.27	2.27

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	28	10	38

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D.	6.74	5.13	6.35	7.37	4.58
England and Wales	5.99	5.94	6.01	6.06	5.77

DEATHS (Continued)

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	5	-	5

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Weobley R.D.	0.88	1.42	1.76	1.58	0.53
England and Wales	1.53	1.76	1.77	1.75	1.37

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	1	-	1
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes mellitus	1	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system	2	-	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive disease	-	2	2
Ischaemic heart disease	9	2	11
Other forms of heart disease	2	3	5
Cerebrovascular disease	10	1	11
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	1	6
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	-	2
Asthma	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
	42	21	63

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Weobley Rural District

Disease	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Whooping Cough	2	-	4	11	-
Measles	80	13	3	44	113
Scarlet Fever	-	6	2	6	-
+Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	3
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	2	-	2	1	-
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	5	-	4	18	47
Measles	291	146	35	526	314
Scarlet Fever	6	10	4	11	11
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	-
+Infective Jaundice	4	10	106	8	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	2	-	-	1
Dysentery	2	2	1	17	285
Food Poisoning	11	16	9	6	10
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	7	3	4	1	3
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	2	3	2

+Notifiable from 15.6.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1971

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	4	12	98	122	33	17	5	-	-	-	-	-	291
Scarlet Fever	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	4
Dysentery	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	11
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	7
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Comparative figures per 1,000 population

Disease	North Herefordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.14	0.35
Measles	7.90	2.77
Scarlet Fever	0.16	0.26
Infective Jaundice	0.11	0.29
Dysentery	0.05	0.22
Food Poisoning	0.30	0.14
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.19	0.19
Non-Pulmonary	0.05	0.05

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1970.	14	8	4	4
New cases notified	1	1	-	1
Died	-	1	-	-
Died from other causes	2	-	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1971.	13	8	4	5

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1967	1	32	1	4
1968	1	31	1	-
1969	2	31	-	-
1970	-	30	-	1
1971	3	30	1	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The Rural District is situated in the North Western portion of the Country. It comprises 26 parishes covering an area of 49,727 acres of mainly agricultural land, and whilst there are no large villages, each parish has a village or hamlet forming a nucleus.

There is very little, if any, other form of industry apart from farming in the area and for some years now there has been a decrease in the number of people turning to agriculture for a livelihood. Many young people, quite naturally, tend to go to Hereford or Leominster to work. Also, quite a large number prefer to move away completely from the Rural area into the larger towns, such as Birmingham, where there is much more scope by way of employment and leisure,

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Regional and Village Supplies

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the supply of the Herefordshire Water Board and mains supplies are available in the greater portion of the District.

Water Supplied from Public Mains direct to Houses (including farm-houses)

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Almeley	94	282
Birley	25	75
Bishopstone	62	186
Blakemere	16	48
Bridge Sollars	3	9
Brinsop	6	18
Brobury	2	6
Byford	44	132
Canon Pyon	132	396
Dilwyn	127	381
Eardisland	57	171
Kinnersley	31	93
King's Pyon	72	216
Letton	10	30
Mansel Lacy	36	108
Moccas	19	57
Monnington-on-Wye	8	24
Norton Canon	69	207
Preston-on-Wye	30	90

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Sarnsfield	4	12
Staunton-on-Wye	114	342
Stretford	---	---
Weobley	301	903
Yazor	22	66
Water Supplied from Private Mains		
Bridge Sollars	2	6
Brinsop	3	9
Canon Pyon	2	6
Mansel Lacy	4	12
Norton Canon	2	6
Wormesley	6	18
Yazor	4	12
Water Supplied from Public Mains by means of Standpipes		
Bishopstone	1	3
Weobley	10	30

The water supplied from these public and private mains is satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

b) The Examination and Sampling of Water Supplies

During the year 130 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Public Supplies (chlorinated)	77	18	95
Other Supplies (wells, springs and private supplies)	17	18	35
	94	36	130

Where supplies have proved to be unsatisfactory, occupiers were notified that water used for drinking purposes should be boiled prior to use. Where appropriate, the Herefordshire Water Board has also been informed.

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Towards the end of the year the extensions at the Weobley Sewage Disposal Works were commissioned and the Works now has the capacity to deal with liquid wastes from Ledgemoor, Weobley Marsh, King's Pyon and Norton Canon.

Schemes are in the course of preparation for Bishopstone, Preston-on-Wye, and Ledgemoor and Weobley Marsh; now that the Works at Weobley are in operation a scheme for Norton Canon could also be proceeded with.

The scheme for Bishopstone is being designed to enable liquid wastes to be pumped into the Hereford Rural District Council Sewage Works near Credenhill.

The existing Works at Dilwyn, Canon Pyon, Staunton-on-Wye and Moccas have functioned satisfactorily and gradually more properties are being connected to the sewers. At Dilwyn new development has now taken up practically all the reserve capacity at the Works, and the Council should seriously consider a substantial extension to the Works as it is likely that further development will occur in the area.

The village of Almeley should also receive further consideration as the Council has been advised of the existence of several nuisances coupled with the fact that fairly extensive housing development seems imminent.

Number of houses connected to public sewers	263
Number of houses connected to satisfactory private disposal works	865 (est.)
Number of houses using chemical, pail or earth closets with satisfactory disposal	Not known
Number of houses without satisfactory means of disposal	Not known

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths within the area. A small pool is, however, in use at Weobley County Primary School for the use of pupils. Samples of water from the Baths are regularly submitted for bacteriological examination.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A fortnighly collection of household refuse has been in operation throughout this District and the Kington Rural District Council area for several years, the service of both Districts being operated from the Depot at Whitehill, Weobley.

Since the publication of the report of the Government Working Party, more and more Councils are adopting a weekly collection service, using chiefly plastic bags or paper sacks.

There is also a definite trend in the area towards a weekly service which I believe is to some extent brought about by less household refuse being burned on open fires as these are diminishing with the introduction of small domestic central heating systems or electrical heating, as well as the fact that a fairly large number of properties are now occupied by former town dwellers who have been accustomed to a more frequent service elsewhere. Towards the close of the year your Council was reconsidering the question of a monthly service.

On the various collection rounds the freighter travelled some 13,308 miles during the year at an average of 12.16 to the gallon of fuel.

DISINFECTIONS

Terminal disinfection is carried out as requisite.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Until September Local Authority properties were temporarily surveyed and treated by the Council Manual Workers Staff.

This was followed by the appointment of a private contractor to survey the district as well as survey and treatment of Council owned properties.

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

As required in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of Article 25 of the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959.

Inspection Under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied with
Building Inspections & New Buildings	407	8		8
Building Plans	114			
Building Regulations	9			
Council Housing Schemes	256			
Council House Management & Maintenance	474	12		12
Council House Tenancy Investigations	77			
Drainage	15			
Disinfection	7			
Discretionary Improvement Grants	113			
Establishment	11			
Food Premises	24			

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR (cont.)

Inspection Under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied with
Housing Act, 1969	5			
Housing (F.P.) Act, Section 41	19			
Housing Inspections	48			
Infectious Diseases	3			
Meat Inspection	125			
Milk Samples	38			
Miscellaneous	180			
Moveable Dwellings	25			
Nuisances	68	15		15
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	1			
Planning Duties	7			
Petroleum Inspections	15			
Public Offices	2			
Public Conveniences	2			
Refuse Collection and Disposal	80			
Rodent Control	27			
Slaughterhouses	2			
Sewage Disposal	87			
Standard Improvement Grants	37			
Valuation of Property	26			
Water Samples	160			
Water Supplies	39			
Totals	2503	35		35

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

There are no large factories within the rural area and the number of persons employed in such factories as exist is quite small.

The list of factories within the rural area is as follows:-

	FACTORIES Mechanical power with	without	Total	Other Premises
Almeley	1	-	1	1
Blakemere	2	-	2	-
Canon Pyon	3	-	3	1
Dilwyn	1	-	1	-
Eardisland	1	-	1	1
Moccas	1		1	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948 (cont).

	FACTORIES Mechanical Power with	without	Total	Other Premises
Norton Canon	1	-	1	1
Preston-on-Wye	1	-	1	1
Weobley	6	-	6	1
	17	-	17	7

The 'Other Premises' described in the foregoing list of factories include workshops, such as tradesmen's premises at which no-one except the owners are employed. These premises are outside the definition of 'Factories' as described in the Act.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958, AND HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

Discretionary Improvement Grants

The scheme has been implemented by the Council since 1952 and so far 218 proposals have been approved. Dwellings improved under this scheme now amount to 12% of the total number of occupied houses.

Twenty-eight schemes were approved by the Council during the year.

Standard Improvement Grants

This method of improving old properties continues to be well received and during the year 20 applications were made and approved, with 16 completed and paid.

Since the inauguration of the scheme in 1959, some 303 proposals amounted to about 16.8% of the total occupied houses in the area have been approved, five of these being later withdrawn by the applicants.

COUNCIL HOUSING AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

A conversion and improvements scheme for converting Brook house into two dwellings and improving Brook Cottage at Canon Pyon was commenced also a scheme for the erection of eight houses and four bungalows at Preston-on-Wye was in course of preparation.

A summary of the various Council Housing Schemes is given on page

PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Only eight new dwellings were completed during the year, this in some measure being due to the difficulties encountered in abtaining suitable sites, with planning permission.

The County Planning Authorities' Policy of building within villages has meant that small plots of land situated other than in villages, cannot be used for housing purposes. Eleven dwellings were under construction at the close of the year.

Wherever possible the utmost assistance has been given by the staff to help promote private building.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES

	Completed	Year	Under construction	Houses in preparatory stages	Year
Almeley	8	1951	-	-	-
	2	1955	-	-	-
	11	1956	-	-	-
	4	1969	-	-	-
Bishopstone	2	1945	-	-	-
	12	1966	-	-	-
	2	1969	-	-	-
Canon Pyon	2	1945	-	-	-
	14	1965	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	6	1965	-	-	-
	1	1965	-	-	-
	1	1967	-	-	-
(Hse Conversion)	1	1971			
Dilwyn	12	1953	-	-	-
	4	1955	-	-	-
Eardisland	4	1954	-	-	-
	15	1955	-	-	-
King's Pyon	6	1966	-	-	-
Norton Canon	2	1944	-	-	-
	4	1966	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	2	1966	-	-	-
Letton Conversion	2	1966	-	-	-
Moccas	7	1969	-	-	-
Preston-on-Wye	-	-	-	12	1962
Staunton-on-Wye	14	1966	-	-	-
Staunton-on-Wye Louvaine	2	1968	-	-	-
Weobley	14	1949	-	-	-
	10	1955	-	-	-
	22	1956	-	-	-
	9	1957	-	-	-
(Conversion)	1	1948	-	-	-
	2	1952	-	-	-
	5	1952	-	-	-
	3	1958	—	-	-

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMS (cont).

	Com-pleted	Year	Under const-ruction	Houses in prepara-tory stages	Year
Weobley					
(Bungalows	6	1961	-	-	-
	6	1961	-	-	-
	20	1962	-	-	-
(Grouped Dwellings)	22	1970	-	-	-
(Warden's Flat)	1	1970	-	-	-
(Bungalows - General Needs	4	1970	-	-	-
	265			12	

FINANCIAL ADVANCES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, PURCHASE OR RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES

Since 1956 it has been the Council's policy to advance money for the purposes stated in the heading, but the number of applications received during the past year has been less than in some previous years.

Advances made since 1956 are as follows:-

a) For the construction of new dwellings 16

b) For the purchase, repair or improvement of existing dwellings 75

BUILDING PLANS

A total of 260 applications were dealt with during the year as follows:-

Accesses	11
Alterations and improvements	66
Car Port	1
Central Heating	5
Change of use	5
Connection to public sewers	3
Conservatories porches, etc.,	7
Conversions	1
Drainage	21
Overhead lines (electricity)	7
Farm Buildings	28
Garages	17
Illuminated signs	1
Moveable dwellings	5

Private Houses	57
Sanitary Accommodation	4
Sheds, Greenhouses, etc.,	9
Stables	1
Stores	5
Swimming Pool	1
Village Halls	2
Workshops	2

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE

At the end of the year petrol storage capacity amounted to 58,040 gallons.

There are 8 petrol filling stations and 36 private storage tanks licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit.

No licences were issued during the year for the storage of carbide.

HOP PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

The introduction of machinery for hop-picking has meant that local labour has largely satisfied the demands on smaller farms, thus very few dwellings were used during the season.

Number of farms having accommodation for pickers: 2

School Milk Supplies

By arrangement with the County Council, samples of milk are obtained and submitted for bacteriological and also biological examination. Thirteen samples were sent for bacteriological examination during the year.

Food Premises

Food premises in area:-

Butchers' shops	3	School Canteens	3
Grocers' shops	6	Snack Bars and Cafes	3
Inns & Hotels	17	Other small shops	12

The other small shops mentioned sell sundry items of food and sweets in pre-packed wrappers.

Throughout the year, from time to time, miscellaneous inspections of food premises were undertaken during the course of other visits, but 24 inspections were made specifically in connection with Food Hygiene Regulations.

Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	48
Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	48
Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19	48
Premises registered under Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for storage and sale of ice-cream	34

Slaughterhouses & Butchers' Shops

There are two private slaughterhouses in Weobley, both of which are used regularly. During the year -

202 Beasts 128 Sheep . 512 Lambs 442 Pigs

were slaughtered at the two establishments and, after inspection the following meat was considered to be unfit for human consumption:

Livers:-

22 Bovine 14 Pigs 8 Sheep 14 Lambs

1 Pig's heart
4 Pigs' lungs
1 Pig's hind quarters

By comparison with 1970, 8.2% more animals were slaughtered in the area.

100% inspection of all carcasses and organs has been maintained.